

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 7-10, and 13-32 are currently pending. No claims have been amended herewith.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 7, 21, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,289,286 to Nakamura et al. (hereinafter “the ‘286 patent”); Claims 2-4, 8-10, 22-24, 28, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘286 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,260,797 to Muraji et al. (hereinafter “the ‘797 patent”); Claims 25, 26, 31, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the ‘286 patent in view of Japanese Patent No. JP 11-113019 to Hideo (hereinafter “the ‘019 patent”); and Claims 13-20 were allowed.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the interview granted Applicants’ representative on July 16, 2004, at which time the patentability of the claims with respect to the ‘286 patent was discussed. At the conclusion of the interview, the Examiner indicated that the outstanding rejection of the claims would likely be withdrawn. However, no agreement was reached, pending the Examiner’s further consideration of the claims upon formal submission of a response to the outstanding Office Action.

Claim 1 is directed to an image display apparatus, comprising: (1) an image processor for outputting image data including plural color component data; (2) a gain corrector for correcting chromaticity levels of the image data output by the image processor; and (3) an image display device having pixels each emitting a plurality of colored light rays for forming a color image in accordance with the corrected image data corrected by the gain corrector. Further, Claim 1 recites that the gain corrector corrects a respective level of at least one of the

plural color component data applied to each respective pixel in the image display device based on measured luminance levels at each respective pixel such that, when image data representing an image of a uniform color are output from the image processor, a difference in chromaticity of light exiting from the pixels due to characteristic differences between the pixels of the image display device is reduced.

The '286 patent is directed to a solid state sensor having a logarithmic photovoltaic response and a system for pixel uniformity correction. As shown in Figure 22, the '286 patent discloses an embodiment in which voltages corresponding to red, green, and blue image data are outputted by a CCD 112, are converted to digital values by A/D converters 113-115, and are corrected by digital correcting calculating circuits 119-121, respectively. In particular, the '286 patent discloses that, based on a difference between white light data and the digitized image data, white balance correction is made to the image data.¹

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the '286 patent fails to disclose an image display device having pixels each emitting a plurality of colored light rays for forming a color image in accordance with the corrected image data corrected by a gain corrector, as recited in Claim 1. Rather, the '286 patent discloses that the data output by the correction circuits 119-121 are sent to a device 122 "such as a memory apparatus and a printer."² Rather, the '286 patent is directed to correcting inconsistencies in an image sensor and does not discuss any aspects of displaying an image.

Further, Applicants note that the '286 patent fails to disclose a gain corrector that corrects a respective level of at least one of plural color component data applied to each respective pixel in an image display device based on measured luminance levels at each respective pixel of the image display device, as recited in Claim 1. In this regard, Applicants

¹ See '286 patent, column 21, lines 1-8.

² Id., column 20, line 45.

note that since the '286 patent does not disclose an image display device, it cannot disclose gain correction based on measured luminance levels of the image display device.

Finally, Applicants submit that the '286 patent fails to disclose that plural component data are corrected such that when image data representing an image of a uniform color are output from the image processor, a difference in chromaticity of light exiting from the pixels of the display device due to characteristic differences between the pixels of the image display device is reduced. The '286 patent is silent as to whether its gain correction has anything to do with the characteristic differences between the pixels (that affect chromaticity) of an image display device. Moreover, as discussed above, Applicants note that the '286 patent does not disclose a display device. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by the '286 patent.

Claim 7 recites limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 7 as anticipated by the '286 patent.

Claims 21 and 27 recite limitations analogous to the limitations recited in Claim 1. However, Claims 21 and 27 do not recite that the gain correction is based on measured luminance levels at each respective pixel, as recited in Claim 1. However, Applicants note that Claims 21 and 27 each recite an image display device having pixels each emitting a plurality of colored light rays and that gain correction is applied such that a difference in chromaticity of light exiting from the pixels due to characteristic differences between pixels of the image display device is reduced. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above for the patentability of Claim 1, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 21 and 27 as anticipated by the '286 patent.

Regarding the rejection of dependent Claims 2-8, 8-10, 22-26, and 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants respectfully submit that the '797 and '019 patents fail to remedy the

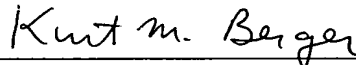
deficiencies of the '286 patent, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established and the rejection of dependent Claims 2-8, 8-10, 22-26, and 28-32 should be withdrawn.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 7, 21, and 27 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of the '286, '797, and '019 patents.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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